



## **Immediate Release**

### **TurboJET conducted full-scale "H1N1 Influenza A" Emergency Drill To reinforce contingency handling capability**

(7 May 2009 – Hong Kong and Macau) With the support of Hong Kong Marine Department and the Port Health Office, TurboJET engaged 54 staff and crew members to carry out a full scale H1N1 Influenza A Emergency Drill today. The exercise involves reenacting an onboard passenger exhibiting symptoms of H1N1 Influenza A. In response to such, cabin crew are evaluated based on their ability to handle emergency situations including adherence to protocol in notifying relevant authorities, making onboard broadcasts, distributing face masks, quarantining the passenger and sending him off to the hospital, as well as follow-up sterilization of the entire vessel.

The drill was set on a 9:30am sailing ex-Macau destined for Hong Kong. A passenger indicated to our cabin attendant that he was exhibiting symptoms including cough, fever, sore throat and lethargy, and requested medical assistance.

The cabin attendant immediately put on a face mask and informed the Master of the situation. The Master promptly activated emergency measures, reported the case to Hong Kong Operations Control Centre and Vessel Traffic Centre, and made an announcement to all passengers onboard. Designated cabin attendants put on protective gears and approached the patient, requesting him to put on a face mask, and relocated him to an isolated section of the vessel. Face masks were also distributed to other passengers.

Upon the arrival of the vessel in Hong Kong, Port Health officers performed preliminary health check on the suspected patient and escorted him to the ambulance via a special channel. Officers then collected health declaration forms and contact information from other passengers for future reference.

Following the departure of passengers, cleaning crew boarded the vessel to conduct a thorough disinfection. The drill lasted 1 hour 25 minutes.

In addition to the adoption of a series of contingent and preventative measures of H1N1Influenza A as announced earlier, today's drill was carried out in alignment with the efforts of the Hong Kong Department of Health in containing the spread of the disease. TurboJET is a key mode of transportation connecting Hong Kong and Macau, therefore by strengthening inter-departmental collaboration, as well as external communication with the authorities and passengers, epidemic prevention coordination can be enhanced to ensure that the health and safety of passengers and crew members are effectively protected.

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